



SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Monthly newsletter for dioceses and parishes. Issue 17 - March 2015
Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference
Columba Centre, Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co Kildare

NEWS SNIPPETS

Pope Francis has invited dioceses and parishes to celebrate '24 Hours for the Lord' on 13 and 14 March 2015, to encourage people to avail of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The theme which will guide this year's event is: 'God rich in mercy' (Eph 2:4). Check local diocesan and parish websites for more information.



- Vocations Sunday will take place this year on 26 April.
- Bishop Kevin Doran has launched details of the scholarships available for the Star of the Sea Summer Schools for senior post-primary students. For more information see www.elphindiocese.ie/summerschools.
- A resource day for priests, religious and lay people on Saint Columbanus will take place in Dalgan Park, Navan on 25 and 28 April in preparation for the Jubilee Year events in June. For information and booking please email: columbanusjubileeyear@gmail.com.

ACCORD publishes research on marriage and families

In February, Bishop Denis Nulty, President of ACCORD, published new research by ACCORD on marriage and families which was undertaken by consultants Amárach Research. It was published after the blessing of engaged couple Ms Leona Gallagher and Mr Paul McNulty at the Shrine of Saint Valentine in Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Whitefriar Street Church, in the Archdiocese of Dublin.



In his address Bishop Nulty said: "There is no doubt that in many parts of the world attitudes to marriage and the family have changed dramatically in recent years – including here in Ireland. So much so that many commentators, including Pope Francis, have spoken of marriage and the family as being *"in crisis"*. ACCORD speaks to this crisis through our work operating out of 55 centres with 936 committed professional volunteers being the face of ACCORD throughout the island of Ireland – North and South." A key finding of the research was that 65% of people agreed that a child is more likely to grow up happy if raised in a home with a loving mother and father. Please read the research on www.catholicbishops.ie.

Marriage is a unique relationship different from all others

"Children, as they grow and mature, deserve from society a clear understanding of the importance of marriage. Without protection and support for the unique place of marriage in society, the State could, in effect, deprive children of the right to a mother and father." - excerpt from the bishops' pastoral statement *The Meaning of Marriage*. The full text is available in your church and can also be downloaded from catholicbishops.ie.

Flesh and Blood initiative



A campaign to mobilise Churches to help increase the number of

organ donors has been launched in both Armagh and Dublin. For more information see catholicbishops.ie.

Archbishop Martin on marriage

Speaking in Tralee, Co Kerry on the theme of 'Journeying in Hope The Church in Ireland, signs of hope, new challenges', Archbishop Diarmuid Martin said: "The challenge of the Synod of Bishops is to re-awaken in our communities a sense of the importance of the mission of married people in the Church." Read the full text of the homily on catholicbishops.ie.

Produced by the Catholic Communications Office. See www.catholicbishops.ie for more information.



Pope Francis Tweet of the Month: "How often we forget to dedicate ourselves to that which truly matters! We forget that we are children of God." Follow Pope Francis on Twitter @Pontifex and on @news_va.